

In the Claims

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising transmitting the signifier.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 further comprising transmitting the predetermined amount of the encoded schema in the particular format.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein encoding the predetermined amount of the schema comprises binary encoding the schema.

5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 wherein binary encoding the schema comprises:

assigning a first token code for each component in the schema, the first token code associated with a corresponding component value in a lookup table; and

assigning a second token code for each attribute of the component, the second token code associated with a corresponding attribute value in the lookup table.

6-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ method of ~~claim 8~~ encoding and distributing a schema for a content description comprising:

creating a header comprising a signifier, the signifier comprising an eight-bit mask that includes eight positions to define a particular format for the schema, wherein a first position in the eight bit mask indicates that the schema is to be sent as a whole entity; and

encoding a predetermined amount of the schema according to the particular format, wherein the signifier is transmitted to a decoder to indicate to the decoder the particular format in which the predetermined amount of the schema is encoded.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8-9 wherein a second position in the eight bit mask indicates that some components are to be sent first followed by the schema.

11. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8-9 wherein a third position in the eight bit mask indicates that the schema is to be sent first, followed by a set of components.

12. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8-9 wherein a fourth position in the eight-bit mask indicates component addition.

13. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8-9 wherein a fifth position in the eight-bit mask indicates component updating.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8-9 wherein a sixth position in the eight-bit mask indicates component deletion.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8-9 wherein an eighth position in the eight-bit mask indicates that another header is to be sent.

16. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein the first token code comprises a six bit field.

17. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein a bit-field length of the second token code depends on a maximum number of attributes of the corresponding component.

18. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein a second token code indicates an extension of the corresponding attribute.

19. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein a second token code indicates an attribute end.

20. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein a first token code indicates a component end.

21. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein a first token code indicates a schema end code.

22. (Currently amended) A machine-readable storage medium having executable instructions to cause a computer to perform a method comprising:

creating a header comprising a signifier, the signifier comprising an eight-bit mask that includes eight positions to define a particular format for a schema for a content description, wherein a first position in the eight bit mask indicates that the schema is to be sent as a whole entity~~to signal that the schema is to be sent in a particular format~~; and

encoding a predetermined amount of the schema according to the particular format, wherein the signifier is transmitted to a decoder to indicate to the decoder the particular format in which the predetermined amount of the schema is encoded.

23. (Currently amended) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 22 wherein encoding the predetermined amount of schema comprises binary encoding the schema.

24. (Currently amended) The machine-readable storage medium of claim 23 wherein binary encoding the schema comprises:

assigning a first token code for each component in the schema, the first token code associated with a corresponding component value in a lookup table; and

assigning a second token code for each attribute of the component, the second token code associated with a corresponding attribute value in the lookup table.

25-48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim ~~48~~53 further comprising a transmitter to transmit the signifier followed by the predetermined amount of the schema in the particular format.

50. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim ~~48~~53 wherein the encoding of the predetermined amount of the schema comprises binary encoding the schema.

51. (Original) The computer system of claim 50 wherein binary encoding the schema comprises:

assigning a first token code for each component in the schema, the first token code associated with a corresponding component value in a lookup table; and

assigning a second token code for each attribute of the component, the second token code associated with a corresponding attribute value in the lookup table.

52-54. (Cancelled)

55. (Currently amended) ~~The A~~ computer system of ~~claim 53~~ comprising:

a processing unit;

a memory coupled to the processing unit through a system bus; and

an encoding and distribution program executed from the memory by the processing unit, wherein the encoding and distribution program causes the processing unit to create header comprising a signifier, the signifier comprising an eight-bit mask that includes eight positions to define a particular format for a schema for a content description, wherein a first position in the eight bit mask indicates that the schema is to be sent as a whole entity, and the encoding and distribution program causes the processing unit to encode a predetermined amount of the schema according to the particular format, wherein the signifier is transmitted to a decoder to indicate to the decoder the particular format in which the predetermined amount of the schema is encoded.

56. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim ~~53~~55 wherein a second position in the eight bit mask indicates that some components are to be sent first followed by the schema.

57. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim ~~53-55~~ wherein a third position in the eight bit mask indicates that the schema is to be sent first, followed by a set of components.

58. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim ~~53-55~~ wherein a fourth position in the eight-bit mask indicates component addition.

59. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim ~~53-55~~ wherein a fifth position in the eight-bit mask indicates component updating.

60. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim ~~53-55~~ wherein a sixth position in the eight-bit mask indicates component deletion.

61. (Currently amended) The computer system of claim ~~53-55~~ wherein an eighth position in the eight-bit mask indicates that another header is to be sent.

62. (Original) The computer system of claim 51 wherein the first token code comprises a six bit field.

63. (Original) The computer system of claim 51 wherein a bit-field length of the second token code depends on a maximum number of attributes of the corresponding component.

64. (Original) The computer system of claim 51 wherein a second token code indicates an extension of the corresponding attribute.

65. (Original) The computer system of claim 51 wherein a second token code indicates an attribute end.

66-72. (Cancelled)